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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Implementation of General Assembly resolution S-18/3

Note by the Director-General

1. On 21 December 1990, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 45/234 on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries. (The Declaration is contained in General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990). The General Assembly called, inter alia, upon Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies to take appropriate measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration. Moreover, the Secretary-General of the United Nations was requested in resolution 45/234 to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, a report on the steps taken by Governments as well as organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including UNIDO, to fulfil the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration. In this connection, resolution 1990/54 of the Economic and Social Council had recommended to the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system that they include in their agenda the question of the implementation of the Declaration and invited them to report to the Council, at its second regular session of 1991 (3-26 July 1991) on steps taken within their respective spheres of competence, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration.

2. UNIDO, having the constitutional mandate in the United Nations system for the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in developing countries, is thus invited to report through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly on the steps taken to implement the Declaration, in the field of industrial development.

3. In resolution S-18/3, the States Members of the United Nations solemnly proclaimed their strong commitment to a global consensus to promote international economic co-operation for sustained growth of the world economy and, in particular, to revitalize economic growth and development of the developing countries. As far as UNIDO is concerned, General Assembly resolution 45/196 on industrial development cooperation is of particular relevance in that respect. Resolution 45/196 emphasizes, in fact, in its preamble that the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries would be facilitated, inter alia, through their industrial development and the diversification and modernization of their productive activities. In relation to that resolution UNIDO is undertaking a number of measures to adapt to the emerging trends in the global economic system and the increasing interdependence and integration of the global economy (IDB.8/32). Thus the priorities for economic growth and development stated in resolution S-18/3 are reflected in UNIDO's medium-term plan for 1990-1995 (GC.3/17) as well as in the proposed medium-term plan for 1992-1997 (PBC.7/17), in particular the priorities relating to human resource development, mobilization of development finance, environment and transfer of technology. New initiatives within UNIDO, such as the financing of programmes and projects by special trust funds, allow it to respond rapidly and with flexibility to the needs of industrial enterprises. Other initiatives worth mentioning are: the programme approach to tackle development problems comprehensively including subsectoral studies, policy advice, technical cooperation and

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investment activities, and the establishment - still at the experimental stage - of industrial cooperation offices in some countries.

4. It is in that context that UNIDO is responding to the concerns of the General Assembly on how to strengthen industrial development cooperation and assist in the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries. The UNIDO Secretariat is proposing a number of recommendations that would also contribute to the aims of the Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly. These recommendations elaborate measures of international cooperation in the field of industrial development as specified in paragraphs 21 to 38 of the Declaration.

5. The proposals of the UNIDO Secretariat will be contained in document IDB.8/32 on industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries, which will be presented to the Industrial Development Board under item 19 of the provisional agenda of its current session.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

6. The Board may wish to consider the proposals submitted by the Director-General under item 19 of the provisional agenda (IDB.8/1) for submission through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991 to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.